

Arizona Forest Health Council
Notice of Public Meeting of a Public Body
Sections 7.6, 7.7.4 and 7.9.1
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE –
Arizona Forest Health Council

Pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431, notice is hereby given to the members of the Arizona Forest Health Council and to the general public that the **Arizona Forest Health Council** will hold a meeting open to the public:

Arizona Association of Counties
Board Room
1910 West Jefferson
Phoenix, AZ 85009
Thursday, January 10, 2013
10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Tele Conference Number: 1-877-820-7831
Passcode: 219418#

Minutes

1. Call to Order – 10:00 am Chair, Scott Hunt

Members Present:

Chair Scott Hunt, Marcus Selig for Ethan Aumack, Pascal Berlioux, Don Berry, Kerwin Dewberry for Neil Bosworth, Kent Bushman, Robert Davis, Steve Gatewood, Bruce Hallin, Sue Sitko, and Darrell Willis.

Members via Tel-Conference:

Steve Rosenstock, Diane Vosick for Wally Covington, and Paul Summerfeldt Flagstaff Fire Department.

Members Absent:

Kevin Kinsall (excused) and Todd Schulke

Public:

Nicole Farr, Arizona Insurance Council, Jerry Payne, Deputy State Forester, Alix Rogstad Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager Arizona State Forestry and Beth Nehring Arizona State Forestry.

Chair Scott Hunt welcomed the Forest Health Council members and guests in attendance.

2. Approval of the Minutes from the July FHC Meeting ~

- Pascal Berlioux moved for approval; Steve Gatewood second.
- Minutes were approved.

3. Council Representation Update ~ Scott Hunt

- Scott gave an update on the Council and reviewed the handout distributed:

Neil Bosworth will replace Christine Dawe for the USFS. Nicole Farr, will submit nomination for the Arizona Insurance Council. Ethan Aumack resigned and was replaced by Marcus Selig who also resigned he is moving to Colorado. With both Ethan and Marcus departing we still need a Co-Chair.

Todd Schulke still needs to submit his oath of office. Neil, Nicole and Supervisor Martin still need to submit applications to Boards and Commissions. Mayor Nabours application has been received.

- Representatives from another Conservation Community, Ranching Community, Rural Economic Development Organization, Real Estate Industry, a Rural Fire District from a Southern community, a Tribal Representative and a U of A Representative are still open. Recommendations for any of these openings should be sent to Scott.
- Diane and Steve made a recommendation that Sue Sitko be appointed Co-Chair.

4. State of the State Report ~ Scott Hunt

- Scott reported that the State Legislature starts next week and the new budget will be announced next Friday. There is no knowledge of Forestry bills at this time.
- There may be efforts on changing the road weight limits. There currently is an issue with Highways 261 and 273 due to current weight limits of 35,000 and 20,000 pounds. A temporary fix has been set up with the State Engineer at ADOT so that work can continue in the Wallow Fire area. A recommendation was to create a small work group to follow this.
- Rob Davis stated that there will be an effort to increase the weight limits from 80,000 for forest related issues. Jerry Payne has a map he will send out.
- Rob Davis, Scott Hunt, Pascal Berlioux will comprise the working group.
- Steve Gatewood stated that the County also has a concern about the amount of logs being transported on county roads in regards to their maintenance expenses.
- Scott reported that the Arizona Supreme Court ruled against the State Land Department regarding the use of trust land proceeds to fund the agency's operations.

5. Statewide/National Forestry Activity Update

- **Urban Forestry Subcommittee Oversight** ~ Alix Rogstad, Urban & Community Forestry Program Manager presented a proposal to the Council members an overview for a Community Forestry Subcommittee which would help us meet our federal mandate. A white paper was distributed to each member regarding this. The subcommittee would be comprised of individuals from different forestry groups. The recommendation put forward is that a Forest Health Council Member would oversee the subcommittee, participate in one to two meetings a year, and assist with the grant application prioritization. The FHC member will make recommendations on behalf of the subcommittee to the full council for approval and forward those recommendations to the State Forester.
- Alix stated that the board has been functioning without an advisory council. ACTC does not have statewide representation. Pascal stated that it would be good to include urban forestry with the Forest Health Council. Kent Bushman was interested in this committee. Alix said that there is a lot of room for proper tree care education outreach. Alix is looking for support for this subcommittee from the Council.
- Kent stated that the forest also includes the urban forest – street trees.
- Sue Sitko stated that a good non-council member would be Steve Campbell.
- Scott asked for a motion that the Forest Health Council recommend an Urban Forestry Oversight Subcommittee. Pascal made a motion; seconded by Don Berry. Motion carried.
- **Four FRI** ~ Diane Vosik stated she is now the chair. They are waiting for confirmation for funding. This is the key element before they can move forward. The draft Environmental Impact Statement should be going to printer by the end of the month. The comment period will follow. There is an ongoing conversation of monitoring of this program. She stated that the first week in March she will be going to Washington DC to keep Four FRI visible.
- Don Berry asked about the Pioneer funding. Kerwin stated that timelines must be kept or they may pull back the contract. A pre-performance meeting is scheduled with Pioneer at the end of the month
- Don asked Kerwin about replacement for the Regional Forester. Gilbert Zepeda is currently acting. Regional FMO Bob Leaverton retired and Bill VanBruggen is acting at this time.
- **Flagstaff Bond Update ~Paul Summerfeldt** ~ The following handouts were distributed and reviewed: *Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project (graph -work teams & their interaction/roles)*; *Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project Forest Bond Update*; and *Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project Executive Summary & Implementation Plan*. Paul stated that in November the voters passed a \$10 million bond at a three to one margin on two critical

watershed areas. The graph was summarized. Paul stated that next week three agreements will be reviewed – the MOU, participating agreement, and the cooperating agency. NEPA process will begin in March. There is a responsibility to the voters to monitor the projects on a regular basis and report back to the voters. A monitoring summit plan will be developed by the end of the month. They would like to get the community involved and suggested using school kids to assist in the monitoring.

- The bond update document shows the timeline of when things are to happen. On January 18, a meeting is scheduled with the State to review the draft MOU. A signing ceremony for February is being looked at with coordination of all agencies involved.
- Kent asked if public outreach will be done with other major industry players and include them in the discussions. Paul will make sure that this happens.
- A thank you went out to Marcus Selig for his role in leading the advocacy group with the voters in Flagstaff. Without his assistance this would not have passed.
- **WGA** ~ Scott stated the WGA held a meeting the first weekend in December in Scottsdale. Ann Walker has been working on the Federal Cohesive Strategy and would be hiring a coordinator position to follow thru with it. Scott distributed a *Coupled Weather-Fire Modeling* handout that was discussed at the meeting.
- Diane asked if Scott had a sense of the upcoming fire season since there had been four counties that received drought disaster declarations. Scott said that it is too early to tell but that there is a concern at this time.

6. Review of Work Plan Task Group Draft Work Plan

- **Draft FHC Work Plan Action Item List** ~ The group reviewed the list of action items with the final suggestions made:
- **Presentation to Legislative Committees** ~ Scott is looking for assistance with the power point presentation to provide to any upcoming legislative committee requests. Council members may be contacted for information. Diane stated that she and Wally would be available to assist.
- **Presentation to Corporation Commission** ~ Scott said that we need to look at readdressing the Corporation Commission since there are new Commissioners this year. We need to be proactive regarding woody biomass and diversity of resources. Committee members willing to participate include: Rob Davis, Pascal Berlioux, Steve Gatewood, Sue Sitko and Scott.
- **Public Outreach Strategy** ~ What is the Forest Health Council's role in public outreach? We need to promote the talking points and work with the roll out of Cohesive Strategy. It was recommended that the communication needs to be very specific and will be a long term commitment.
- Rob stated that we need to communicate more to our rural areas. We need to target Tucson, Phoenix and those individual communities in the urban areas. Look at using NPR, TV, and other multimedia strategies to get the word out. What is our best role for this?
- **Action:** Make this an agenda item for the March meeting. Steve recommended that we develop a communication committee on how and what we want to communicate.
- **Participate in Alternative Forest Restoration Fund Discussions** ~ Discussion on the need to monitor these activities with updates at our meetings.
- **Healthy Forest Incentive** ~ Get education out. This is in conjunction with working to educate the Corporation Commission. Pascal agreed to be a spokesperson for this.
- **Stewardship Contracting & Good Neighbor Authority** ~ Council is supportive of this and recommend that letters of support be drafted. Additionally, we may need to look at addressing the CFLRP program and the continuation of funding. Jerry stated that half CFLRP dollars are supposed to come from the USFS and the other half comes from additional appropriated dollars which are allocated.
- **Community Protection** ~ Arizona Insurance Council will continue to support us. We need to continue to promote WUI codes, Firewise, and Ready Set Go. Darrell Willis stated that he will be going to Baltimore on January 28 to attend the International Code Council meeting. The ICC is going to be pushing the WUI Code. Arizona has six WUI code communities in the State.

- **Workforce Training Support** ~ Sue reported they are defining the content and curriculum. Focus will be community colleges.
- Kerwin stated evaluation of sales are issues using many tools. Need to use tools based on the landscape. It was requested that the USFS put up more sales using D-by-P and D-by-D where possible.
- **USFS Funding** ~ What monies are coming to the USFS? It was stated that Apache Sitgreaves could be setting up additional sales if adequate admin money was available. How can this be updated and prioritized? Is there something that the FHC could do to assist the USFS to prioritize monies to certain forests?
- Kerwin recommended that a presentation be made to the FHC on how the USFS system works and how they are distributed their funds. He stated that CFLR projects that are not getting matching funds become diverted.
- **Pioneer & Four FRI** ~ Scott will be meeting with Acting Regional Forester Gilbert Zepeda in a couple of weeks to discuss this.
- **Industry Support** ~ State Highways road limits possibly being addressed.
- **AZ Forest Summit** ~ Diane spoke on the upcoming summit in the planning stages with Larry Fisher from U of A. The working title is: State of the Forests and Watersheds of Arizona. The theme is: How do we pay for management and restoration? The tentative dates are October 2 and 3, 2013 in Flagstaff.
- This is in the development stages targeting Arizona Forested Watersheds. The first day would begin at 1:00 pm with speakers and the second day a morning breakout and field trips to the Schultz fire area (what happens if we don't act.) We are looking at the FHC as a sponsor. A budget will be assembled and looking at attendance at 2,500 for two days. Cost would be approximately \$6,000.
- Rob Davis suggested to hold it in Phoenix rather than Flagstaff to reach a broader audience and political leaders.
- **Fire Preparedness** ~ We are coordinating and utilizing existing fire fighting resources to keep the fires small. Under the FLAME Act extra monies was set aside for fire suppression, but it has not been fully funded to meet the demand. USFS airtanker fleet down to 9-10.
- Kerwin stated that resources were pulled from everywhere because of the debt. Adequate funding is needed for the USFS.
- Steve Gatewood asked if a request for additional State funding is needed for forest issues.
- **Recap** ~ The FHC Work Plan Working Group will reconvene and update action list as talked about today. Send Scott an email if you are interesting in working on any of these action item committees.

7. Call to the Public

- None

8. Meeting Schedule and Locations

- March 14, 2013 – AZ Association of Counties Phoenix
1910 W Jefferson – Phoenix, AZ 85009
- May 9, 2013 (location TBD)

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm

This is the time for the public to comment. Members of the Board may not discuss items that are not on the agenda. Therefore, action taken as results of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter or scheduling the matter for further considerations and decisions at a later date.

Dated this January 16, 2013
Arizona Forest Health Council
<http://www.governor.state.az.us/FHC/>